

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, RW, BY

SUBJECT: RWANDA, ZAIRE, BURUNDI TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

REF: KINSHASA 887

1. CONVERSATIONS BY EMBOFFS WITH VARIOUS ZAIRIAN, RWANDAN, AND BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS IN BUJUMBURA ON TRIPARTITE SUMMIT IN KISANGANI ON JANUARY 28-29 PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND TO REFTEL. MAIN POINT IS THAT CONSIDERABLE TENSION STILL EXISTS BETWEEN BURUNDI AND ITS TWO PARTNERS, MAINLY OVER UNILATERAL GRB ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MPLA.

2. IN FORMAL SENSE, MEETING WAS NOT RPT NOT LONG-AWAITED SUMMIT OF THREE PRESIDENTS TO DEAL WITH ACCUMULATED AGENDA OF JOINT PROJECTS AND COORDINATION OF THREE COUNTRIES. RATHER IT WAS INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER TO HASH OVER POLITICAL ISSUES, AND ONE OF CONCLUSIONS WAS THAT DIVERGENCES ARE NOT RPT NOT SO DEEP THAT MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST SHOULD BE LEFT TO LIE DORMANT. THUS, FONMINS WILL PROBABLY AGAIN MEET IN MARCH TO PREPARE WAY FOR OFFICIAL SUMMIT WHICH, AS COMMUNIQUE NOTES, CAN FORMALIZE CREATION OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

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3. ON POLITICAL SIDE, HOWEVER, BOTH RWANDAN AND ZAIRIAN PRESIDENTS MADE CLEAR THEIR DISLIKE OF MICOMBERO'S BEHAVIOR. HABYARIMANA, FOR EXAMPLE, DELIBERATELY REFUSED TO STOP HIS CARAVELLE AT BUJUMBURA AS FAVOR TO MICOMBERO, AND LATTER HAD TO RETURN HOME ON ZAIRIAN C-130. MOBUTU TOLD MICOMBERO IN BILATERAL MEETING THAT, AS HE WAS HOST AT CITY IN ZAIRE, HE COULD NOT RPT NOT BE AS FRANK AND CRITICAL AS HE WOULD FEEL AT SESSION ELSEWHERE. ZAIRIANS AND RWANDANS BOTH MADE KNOWN THEIR DISTASTE FOR NEW BURUNDI FONMIN BWAKIRA, WHO IS ALSO BLAMED FOR GETTING MICOMBERO TO RENEGE ON ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS DRAFT OF COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH ALL THREE WERE READY TO SINGLE OUT CUBA AND USSR FOR POSSIBLE MILITARY THREAT TO ZAIRE TERRITORY. MOBUTU REMINDED BURUNDIANS THAT AT TIME OF 1972 TROUBLES, ONLY ZAIRE HAD SENT ARMED FORCES TO BUJUMBURA TO PROP UP MICOMBERO.

4. FACT THAT MOBUTU CHOSE NOT TO TRY TO BRING MORE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON MICOMBERO IS PROBABLY EXPLAINED BY KINSHASA'S INTEREST IN KEEPING SOME LINKS TO BURUNDI AT TIME WHEN IT IS WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE SECURITY THREAT TO EASTERN ZAIRE. THERE IS TO BE MEETING OF TRIPARTITE SECURITY COMMITTEE IN NEAR FUTURE, AND ZAIRIANS FEAR THAT CUBANS (PERHAPS IN TANZANIA) MAY BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH PRP OF KABILA OR WITH OTHER DISSEDENT ELEMENTS IN KIVU REGION. BURUNDI SEEMS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ZAIRE TO INSURE THAT LARGE ZAIRIAN COLONY IN BUJUMBURA AND SOUTH ALONG LAKE DOES NOT RPT NOT HARBOR SUBVERSIVES. MARK

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